



# Wesley Church Melbourne

*Congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia*

**Sunday Worship**  
**30th January 2022**  
**11 am**



**Faith, hope, and Sophia**  
1 Corinthians 13

Artist: Anonymous  
Mural in Rila Monastery, Bulgaria.

Source: *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56082>

## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the First Peoples of the Kulin Nation,  
traditional custodians of the land, under God.  
We commit ourselves to work and pray for justice in this land.

**Prelude:** Come, Holy Spirit

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

## Greeting and Acknowledgment

### Call to Worship

Love! Just love! Above all other gifts, there is love.

**The source and goal of Christ's life and ours.**

Love. The ground and guide for our dealings with one another.

**The heritage and hope of all races and nations.**

Love. The delight and destiny of those filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Above all else there is love.**

Let us worship God, the fountain of love.

### Hymn 477 Jesus calls us here to meet him

Jesus calls us here to meet him  
as, through word and song and prayer,  
we affirm God's promised presence  
where God's people live and care,  
Praise the God who keeps his promise;  
praise the Son who calls us friends;  
praise the Spirit who, among us,  
to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him  
Word of Life and Lord of All,  
sharer of our flesh and frailness  
saving all who fail or fall.  
Tell his holy human story;  
tell his tales that all may hear;  
tell the world that Christ the glory  
came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other:  
found in him are no divides.  
Race and class and sex and language  
such are barriers he derides.  
Join the hand of friend and stranger;  
join the hands of age and youth;  
join the faithful and the doubter  
in their common search for truth.

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1949— and Graham Maule 1958— *Words and music from Wild Goose Songs 3, Love  
from Below by permission Wild Goose*

### **Prayers of thanksgiving and confession**

Great and gracious God,  
your immensity is such that we cannot conceive of it,  
and yet, in grace you reveal yourself in creation,  
you communicate with us through prophets and scripture  
and through love wherever it is expressed.  
Most wonderfully, you revealed yourself, in proportions we can  
understand,  
in the life and teaching of Jesus, your Son, our brother,  
and in his self-sacrificing life and glorious resurrection.  
Praise and thanks to you, blessed be your name!

Trusting in your grace, we confess  
that we do not know how to speak words of hope,  
because we listen to the purveyors of fear.  
We struggle to know how to be loving  
because we absorb the cynicism and resentment that surround us.  
We struggle to know how to be faithful to you,  
To respond to your call to follow Jesus 'way,  
because at an early age,  
we learned to trust the promises of the false prophets  
who entice us with their simplistic solutions and empty promises.

But you know how to forgive, God of kindness,  
so pour out your mercy upon us.  
May faith abide in us,

so we may serve others even as you have served us;  
may hope abide in us,  
so we may surround the broken with your compassion and grace;  
may love abide in us, as we abide in the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Silence is kept*

The good news is that in God's forgiveness,  
we are offered the healing we need.  
In Christ's name, our sins are forgiven.  
**Amen. Thanks be to God!**

## **Introduction of the theme with children**

**Hymn**      The summons (Tune TiS 679)

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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**Readings:**

Madison Fowler

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet:  
**a light to our path.**

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Luke 4: 21-30

Lord, may your word live in us:  
**and bear much fruit to your glory.**

**Proclamation**

Rachel Kronberger

**Hymn** The Church of Christ in every age (Tune: O Waly, Waly, TiS 536)

The Church of Christ in every age  
beset by change but Spirit led,  
must claim and test its heritage  
and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street,  
the victims of injustice cry  
for shelter and for bread to eat,  
and never live until they die.

Then let the servant Church arise,  
a caring Church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

For he alone, whose blood was shed,  
can cure the fever in our blood,  
and teach us how to share our bread  
and feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve  
in full obedience to our Lord:  
to care for all, without reserve,  
and spread his liberating Word.  
Words by Fred Pratt Green,

*Hymn Online Words © 1971 Hope Publishing Company*

**Offering:** Come O creator Spirit

T. Tertius Noble (1867 - 1953)

## Notices

**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer**

Dinah Reddihough

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

God of love, we pray for the peoples and nations of the world:  
for all in places torn by war and hostility.

Especially we pray for the situation between Russia and the Ukraine.  
May a diplomatic solution be found to avoid warfare and bloodshed.

We pray for places suffering from natural disasters:

Especially we pray for the people of Tonga recovering from the volcano,  
for a timely and generous response from other nations to assist recovery.

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church,

for places where it suffers danger and persecution;

where your prophets are not recognised and your voice isn't heard.

We pray for Ministers, priests, pastors and all who minister in your name.

Especially today we pray for Rachel as she begins ministry with and  
amongst us,

for our Church Councillors, Elders and pastoral carers

and for all who exercise their gifts in the service of our congregation.

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the communities in which we live:

for those with whom we share loving relationships;

for those who struggle in difficult relationships;

for those who grieve broken relationships.

We pray for schools, colleges and universities,

for all who teach and learn.

Especially today we pray for students and teachers  
returning to school this week in the shadow of Covid.

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit:

for those for whom society finds no place,  
for the sorrowing, the despairing, the lonely,  
the addicted, the sick and the dying.

We pray especially for those under great stress responding to the pandemic:  
for doctors and nurses, ambulance staff and emergency workers,  
for pathologists and epidemiologists:  
and for political leaders who have to implement responses.

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for each here today or participating from home.

Keep us attentive to your call on our lives,  
to that still small voice, often so hard to hear in the clamour of life.  
Make us ready, day by day,  
to see you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly.

God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

## Hymn 613 Lord of all hopefulness

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,  
be there at our waking and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
be there at our labours and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
be there at our homing and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

## Benediction

The blessing of the Creator to hold you.  
The blessing of the Son to enfold you.  
The blessing of the Spirit to surround you.  
The blessing of the Holy One, the Holy Three,  
Hold, enfold and surround Thee and me. Amen.

**Postlude:** Fugue in C major

J S Bach (1685-1750)

# A NOBLE CALLING

By Bill Pugh



A familiar member of the community is our postie. He came on foot or bicycle, and now on a motor-bike.

Important mail was labelled OHMS. Posties have rescued people from fire and floods, saved children from drowning, trapped kittens from drains and chimneys.

In 1940, during the Blitz, a retired postie and a squad tunnelled under 3000 tons of girders to retrieve letters, coins and stamps from a bomb site.

A special service, dedication and responsibility, to do their duty, keep us in touch. And the postie had a special role in being a link in the human chain of

community care. A whistle and friendly greeting were their signature.

In a very real sense the apostles of the early church were posties. The word is derived from the Greek word to send. The apostles were sent ones. The Lord called them and sent them out to spread the good news and healing in Christ's name resulted.

We tend to think of the early apostles as very holy saints, but the New Testament records that many, though very sincere, were not well-versed in Christ's teaching and made mistakes. They were ordinary Christians like us, learning.

## Reflection:

*Today we, human as we are, are Gospel posties.*

*"And how can they hear if the message is not proclaimed? And how can the message be proclaimed if the messengers are not sent out? As the scripture says, 'how wonderful is the coming of messengers who bring good news.'" So writes Paul to the Romans. Emails are impersonal; the real messengers are the Lord's posties. The Royal Mail is in our hands.*

[www.victas.uca.org.au/resources](http://www.victas.uca.org.au/resources) | Photo by Sandie Clarke | January 2022

## MORE MONEY FOR MISSION

God calls us to be wise and generous stewards of the resources with which we have been blessed.

The UCA Vic Tas now provides a new opportunity for congregations to more fully live into this calling by transitioning real estate assets into shares in an ethical fund.

For further information visit: <https://victas.uca.org.au/resources/money-for-mission/>

## Daily readings for this week

Monday	31rd January	Isaiah 6:1-8
Tuesday	1st February	1 Corinthians 14:1-12
Wednesday	2nd February	1 Corinthians 14:13-25
Thursday	3rd February	1 Corinthians 14:26-40
Friday	4th February	1 Corinthians 15:1-12
Saturday	5th February	Luke: 5:1-11

### Readings

*30th January 2022*

*Jer 1:4-10*

*Ps 71:1-6*

*1Cor 13:1-13*

*Luke 4:21-30*

*6th February 2022*

*Is 6:1-8*

*Ps 138*

*1 Cor 15:1-11*

*Luke 5:1-11*

### Our Ministers

Rev Alistair Macrae (Currently on leave)  
(03) 9051 4704

Email: [amacrae@wesleychurch.org.au](mailto:amacrae@wesleychurch.org.au)

Days off: Fridays and Saturdays

Rev Rachel Kronberger

Email: [rkronberger@wesleychurch.org.au](mailto:rkronberger@wesleychurch.org.au)

### Director of Music

Geoffrey Urquhart

[Geoff\\_Urquhart@hotmail.com](mailto:Geoff_Urquhart@hotmail.com)

### Children and Family Education

Susan Sha

[familymatters@wesleychurch.org.au](mailto:familymatters@wesleychurch.org.au)

### Church Office

[churchoffice@wesleychurch.org.au](mailto:churchoffice@wesleychurch.org.au)

(03) 9051 4700

### Verger

Leon Lai

Check out <http://wesleychurch.org.au> for the latest news, events and sermons!